

Message Text

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ACTION IO-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07 COME-00 AF-06 EUR-12 OFA-01

DLOS-04 INT-05 /104 W

----- 042701

R 081344Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1669

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT AU PRINCE 0623

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PORG, HA

SUBJECT: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: INFORMATION ON HAITI

REF: STATE 037591

1. THE PRIMARY MULTILATERAL INTERESTS AND OBJECTIVES OF
HAITI IN 1976 INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

(A) TO MAINTAIN A CAUTIOUS, BALANCED INTERNATIONAL POSTURE,
INTENSIFYING PRACTICAL COOPERATION WITH THE UNITED STATES, FRANCE,
AND CERTAIN WEST EUROPEAN STATES WHILE STRESSING COMMON ECONOMIC
AND CULTURAL INTERESTS WITH THE LATIN AMERICAN AND THIRD WORLD
COUNTRIES;

(B) TO EXPAND THE RANGE OF HAITI'S ASSOCIATION WITH INTERNATIONAL
ECONOMIC INITIATIVES SUCH AS THOSE DEVELOPED AT THE UNGA SPECIAL
SESSION WHICH COULD HAVE AN ULTIMATE IMPACT UPON HAITI;

(C) TO SEEK POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC BENEFITS FROM ASSOCIATION
WITH CARIBBEAN REGIONAL BODIES SUCH AS CARICOM, SELA,
AND THE NEW CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION
COMMISSION (CDCC), WHILE AT THE SAME TIME PURSUING EFFORTS
TO OBTAIN PREFERENTIAL ACCESS TO EUROPEAN COMMUNITY MARKETS
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THROUGH ADHERENCE TO THE LOME TREATY;

(D) TO SHARE IN THE SPECIFIC FISHING AND MINERAL RESOURCES GOALS SOUTH AT THE FORTHCOMING LOS NEGOTIATIONS, WORKING WITH OTHER CARIBBEAN STATES TO THAT END;

(E) TO SUPPORT OAS CHARTER REVISIONS THAT WOULD GAIN RESPECT FOR THE ORGANIZATION, ELIMINATE A SOURCE OF CONTENTION BETWEEN LA STATES AND THE UNITED STATES AND REAFFIRM THE RIO TREATY SECURITY LINKAGE. HAITI'S INTEREST IN THE RIO TREATY GUARANTEES HAS BEEN PERCEPTIBLY ENHANCED BY CUBA'S ANGOLAN ADVENTURE. THIS GOVERNMENT HAS A RECURRENT FEAR OF COMMANDO RAIDS BY HAITIAN EXILES TRAINED IN CUBA.

2. (A) OTHER THAN THE UNITED STATES, TO WHICH REFERENCE IS MADE BELOW, NO COUNTRY OR GROUP OF COUNTRIES AFFECTS HAITI'S MULTILATERAL POLICYMAKING TO ANY SIGNIFICANT DEGREE. HAITI IS CRITICAL OF COLLECTIVE LATIN AMERICAN RHETORIC AND MANEUVERING. IT WILL NOT BE INDUCED TO PARTICIPATE IN ANY ENTERPRISE BASED ON A MOOD OF CONFRONTATION WITH THE UNITED STATES OR A DESIRE TO EXCLUDE THE UNITED STATES ARBITRARILY FROM LEGITIMATE PARTICIPATION IN THE AFFAIRS OF THE HEMISPHERE. TOWARD THE OAS, HAITI WILL PAY RESPECTFUL ATTENTION BUT WILL BE PRUDENT ABOUT TAKING ANY INITIATIVES. TOWARD THE NON-ALIGNED AND GROUP OF 77, HAITI WILL REMAIN CIRCUMSPECT AS TO MATTERS OF SUBSTANCE AND CORDIAL AS TO MATTERS OF FORM. AS A RESULT OF THE RECENT VISIT OF SENEGALESE PRESIDENT SENGHOR, HAITI MAY PLAY A MORE ACTIVE ROLE IN THE ASSOCIATION WITH SOME WEST AFRICAN STATES, BUT ITS INFLUENCE IS LIKELY TO BE ON THE SIDE OF MODERATION, AND IT WILL BE PARTICULARLY RECEPTIVE TO EFFORTS TO COUNTER THE EXPANSION OF SOVIET AND CUBAN INFLUENCE IN AFRICA.

(B) ALTHOUGH GENUINELY CONCERNED ABOUT SUCH MATTERS, HAITI HAS NOT SOUGHT TO PROJECT ITS INFLUENCE ON OTHER COUNTRIES OR GROUPS OF COUNTRIES. HOWEVER, AS HAITI EXPANDS THE NETWORK OF ITS FOREIGN RELATIONS AND GAINS IN SELF-CONFIDENCE, IT MAY WELL SEEK TO EXERT A MORE AFFIRMATIVE ROLE IN SUCH REGIONAL CARIBBEAN ENTITIES AS THE CDCC. IN PARTICULAR, IT WILL USE ITS INFLUENCE AGAINST CUBAN EFFORTS TO DOMINATE OR POLITICIZE SUCH GROUPINGS.

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3. HAITI PROVIDES FIRM GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS TO IT DELEGATES TO MAJOR INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS, BUT PERMITS CONSIDERABLE TACTICAL LEEWAY WITHIN THESE GUIDELINES, KNOWING THAT ITS CAREFULLY CHOSEN REPRESENTATIVES ARE THOROUGHLY BRIEFED ON THE BASIC LONG-STANDING ELEMENTS OF HAITIAN FOREIGN POLICY. THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, UNDER THE RESPECTED SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS EDNER BRUTUS, DOES RETAIN EFFECTIVE CONTROL OVER ITS DELEGATES WHILE MEETINGS ARE IN PROGRESS,

BUT BRUTUS DEPENDS UPON HIS REPRESENTATIVES TO ALERT HIM TO QUESTIONS REGARDING HIGH-LEVEL POLICY DECISIONS. WE WOULD JUDGE THAT REPORTING FROM DELEGATES IS SPORADIC AND INFREQUENT, BUT EVEN IF THIS WERE TO BE IMPROVED, IT WOULD REQUIRE PROFOUND CHANGES IN GOVERNMENTAL STYLE BEFORE WE COULD EXPECT A FLOW OF TIMELY AND REALISTIC INSTRUCTIONS TO HAITIAN REPRESENTATIVES.

4. THE GOVERNMENT OF HAITI'S ABILITY TO CONTROL OR INSTRUCT ITS DELEGATES IS NOT INHIBITED BY ANY INDEPENDENT POLITICAL POWER WHICH THE INDIVIDUAL REPRESENTATIVES MAY HAVE. IT IS TRUE UN DELEGATE RAOUL SICLAIT DOES HAVE AN EXTRA DIMENSION OF INFLUENCE BY VIRTUE OF THE FACT THAT HIS BROTHER IS HENRI SICLAIT, HEAD OF THE POWERFUL, NON-FISCALIZED TAX COLLECTING AGENCY, REGIE DU TABAC, BUT THIS FACT, SO FAR AS WE CAN DETERMINE, HAS NOT PREVENTED THE FOREIGN MINISTRY FROM EXERCISING CONTROL OVER HIM, AND HE HAS SHOWN NO TENDENCY TO ACT INDEPENDENTLY. HAITI'S AMBASSADOR TO THE OAS (AND CONCURRENTLY TO THE UNITED STATES), GEORGES SALOMON, IS AN EXPERIENCED AND DISCIPLINED CAREER DIPLOMAT WHO WOULD IN NO WAY CHALLENGE HIS GOVERNMENT'S AUTHORITY (ALTHOUGH TO HIS CREDIT HE HAS ALREADY EXERCISED CONSIDERABLE IMAGINATION AND FLEXIBILITY IN SEEKING TO IMPLEMENT ITS POLICIES). HAITIAN DELEGATES TO UNESCO (ARNOLD SICLAIT), THE LOS CONFERENCE (SERGE CHARLES), AND GATT (JULES BLANCHET) PRESENT NO PROBLEM OF POLITICAL CONTROL TO THE HOST GOVERNMENT. BLANCHET, THE BROTHER OF INTERIOR MINISTER PAUL BLANCHET, IS A RESPECTED ECONOMIST KNOWN FOR HIS INDEPENDENT VIEWS. HE IS INSISTING ON A MORE EXPLICIT GRANT OF AUTHORITY FROM HIS GOVERNMENT BEFORE HE TAKES HIS NEW DUTIES AT GENEVA SERIOUSLY. HE MIGHT BE TROUBLESOME BUT WOULD REPRESENT NO REAL CHALLENGE POLITICALLY. SERGE CHARLES HAS PARTICULARLY CLOSE CONNECTIONS WITH THE PALACE, AND THE FOREIGN MINISTRY WILL NO DOUBT DEFER TO HIS

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RECOMMENDATIONS ON LOS MATTERS.

5. AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, HAITI IS PROBABLY ONE OF THE MOST RECEPTIVE GOVERNMENTS TO U.S. REPRESENTATIONS ON MULTILATERAL ISSUES THAT ONE COULD FIND. IN FACT, HAITI TAKES PAINS TO ALIGN ITSELF WITH THE UNITED STATES ON MAJOR INTERNATIONAL ISSUES AND TO CONCERT ITS TACTICS WITH OURS. IT CLEARLY FEELS THAT INTERACTION WITH THE USG ON THESE MATTERS IS A LEGITIMATE AND NATURAL COMPONENT OF BILATERAL RELATIONS. IT IS RARE THAT HAITI WOULD SOLICIT OUR SUPPORT ON MULTILATERAL MATTERS OF SUBSTANCE. ONE EXCEPTION IS HAITI'S REQUEST TO NEGOTIATE ON THE STATUS OF NAVASSA ISLAND, A U.S. POSSESSION OVER WHICH HAITI CLAIMS SOVEREIGNTY. THE ISSUE GREW OUT OF THE DRAFT PROPOSAL SUBMITTED AT THE FIRST LOS CONFERENCE AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR HAITIAN FISHING AND MINERAL RESOURCES

RIGHTS. THUS FAR, WE HAVE PROVIDED NO SUBSTANTIVE RESPONSE
TO THE HAITIANS, BUT THEY HAVE NOT PRESSED THE MATTER AND
NO DOUBT UNDERSTAND THAT BILATERAL RESOLUTIONS WOULD BE
DIFFICULT BEFORE THE NEXT LOS NEGOTIATING PHASE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976PORTA00623
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760087-0596
From: PORT AU PRINCE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760384/aaaacweo.tel
Line Count: 174
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 37591
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 APR 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <20 APR 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: INFORMATION ON HAITI
TAGS: PFOR, PORG, HA, US, XX
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006